

the electrical and computer engineering departments.

The new Microelectronics Laboratory houses the three-year-old Center for Compound Semiconductor Microelectronics, an engineering research center funded by the National Science Foundation. Research at the center focuses on optical and electrical materials, devices and systems based on gallium arsenide and other semiconductors. At present 50 faculty members are leading research teams at the center, which recently had its \$2.5 million-per-year grant extended by the NSF for the next three years. Construction costs for the new laboratory were covered by the State of Illinois.

✓ LANGER IS NEW HEAD OF NSF THEORETICAL PHYSICS INSTITUTE

James S. Langer has been named director of the NSF-funded Institute for Theoretical Physics, which is affiliated with the University of California, Santa Barbara. He succeeds J. Robert Schrieffer, who will return to his former positions as a physics professor at the university and a part-time member of the institute. Schrieffer stepped down last August.

Langer has been a permanent member of the Institute for Theoretical Physics as well as a professor in the physics department since 1982. Prior to that, he was a physics professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Langer received his BS in 1955 from Carnegie Institute of Technology and his PhD in 1958 from the mathematical physics department of the University of Birmingham, England. His research fields are theoretical solid-state physics and kinetics of phase transformations. Langer recently headed the Panel on Research Opportunities and Needs in Materials Science and Engineering, part of the Committee on Materials Science and Engineering.

The institute, now in its 11th year, operates on a \$2 million annual budget. That money comes from NSF, which recently extended the institute's funding for the next five years.

✓ ACS JOINS AIP IN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER SURVEY

The Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society has voted to join the high school survey project that the American Institute of Physics

inaugurated three years ago (see PHYSICS TODAY, August, page 30). In the second round of the teacher survey, which is being conducted in 1989-90, ACS will cover the costs of including chemistry teachers. The project will be directed and carried out, as before, by AIP's Education and Employment Statistics Division. Including chemistry teachers will boost the projected size of the overall teacher sample to about 7500, up from 3300 in 1986-87.

Almost everybody who takes physics in high school takes chemistry first, so that chemistry courses serve as a gateway regulating the entrance of students into physics. Michael Neuschatz, the AIP staff member in charge of the research project, says that the combined survey should shed light on how chemistry courses and chemistry teachers influence decisions by students on whether to take physics, and it may help the physics community address the problem of low enrollment.

The collaboration between AIP and ACS is especially appropriate, Neuschatz notes, because of the overlap between the two disciplines at the high school level. The initial survey revealed that 40% of the physics teachers queried were also teaching chemistry that semester. In all, 64% of the physics sample had taught an average of ten years of chemistry over the course of their careers.

Besides adding new information on chemistry education in its own right, Neuschatz observes, the next round of the survey should deepen our understanding of physics instruction.

✓ WILSON TO LEAVE AAPT FOR NEW EDUCATION PROJECT

Jack Wilson has resigned as executive officer of the American Association of Physics Teachers, effective July 1990. Wilson, who has been with AAPT since 1982, will become the founding director of the new Lois J. and Harlan E. Anderson Center of Innovations in Undergraduate Education, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and a professor of physics at Rensselaer.

The Center for Innovations in Undergraduate Education, which has been endowed at \$3 million, is intended to promote new approaches to education in all fields, through programs, conferences and publications. One project dear to Wilson's heart involves development of a computer-based introductory college physics

course.

Wilson will continue to oversee AAPT's joint programs with the Soviet Academy of Sciences and may continue to coach the US team for the International Physics Olympiad.

A search committee headed by AAPT past-president Gerald Wheeler of Montana State University has been formed to find a new executive officer for AAPT. The other members of the committee are AAPT President Judy Franz (West Virginia University), Ken Ozawa (California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo), Dolores Mason (AAPT staff), Howard Voss (Arizona State University) and Joe P. Meyer (Northern Illinois University).

✓ OPTICAL SOCIETY MAY ADD 'PHOTONICS' TO ITS NAME

What's in a name? Quite a bit—at least in the eyes of the Optical Society of America. Board members recently voted overwhelmingly (15 to 2) to recommend changing the group's name to the Optics and Photonics Society. They also decided to rename *Optics News*, one of the society's publications, effective immediately. Beginning with the first issue this year, the magazine will be called *Optics & Photonics News*.

The name changes are "in the clear interest of our society," Herwig Kogelnick, then OSA president, wrote in a November 1989 letter to past officers. He admitted that the board was initially shocked at the suggested changes, which were proposed by OSA's objectives and policy committee, but quickly warmed to them. The new name would serve as a "strong symbol of our society's intention to participate vigorously in the rapid growth of photonic science and technology," Kogelnick wrote.

Before the society can take its new name, members must first ratify the change, as required by law in New York State, where OSA is incorporated. The vote will occur at the next annual business meeting, scheduled for November 1990 in Boston.

✓ GOODMAN ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF OPTICAL SOCIETY

Joseph W. Goodman of Stanford University has been elected vice president of the Optical Society of America for 1990. After serving a one-year